

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Monday, November 8, 1999

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 1832—Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act
H.Res. 94—Resolution Recognizing the Generous Contributions of Kidney
Donors
H.R. 359—Emigrant Wilderness Preservation Act
H.R. 3002—Resources Reports Restoration Act
H.R. 3077—Facilitating Water Transfers in the Central Valley Project
H.Con.Res. 128—Sense of Congress Regarding Iran's Treatment of its Jewish
Minority
H.R. 2904—Office of Government Ethics Reauthorization Act
H.Res. 344—Expressing the Condolences of the House Over Payne Stewart's
Death
H.Res. 269—Honoring Shoeless Joe Jackson
H.R. 3189—Designating the Joseph Iletto Post Office
H.R. 2307—Designating the Thomas J. Brown Post Office
H.Con.Res. ____—Reauthorizing the Printing of Certain Publications



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following 12 bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 1832—Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act protects the rights and welfare of professional boxers on an interstate basis by preventing certain exploitive, oppressive, and unethical business practices. The bill amends the 1996 Professional Boxing Safety Act (*P.L. 104-272*) to establish certain minimum

requirements for contracts between boxers and their promoters and managers. It mandates that sanctioning organizations submit to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), or post on the Internet, a complete description of their ratings criteria, policies, general sanctioning fee schedule, bylaws, and appeals procedure. It requires promoters to provide to the appropriate state boxing commission copies of (1) any agreements they have with a boxer; (2) a statement of all expenses that will be assessed the boxer; (3) any benefits the promoter is providing to sanctioning organizations affiliated with the event; (4) and any reduction in a boxer's purse contrary to previous agreements (as well as disclosing other sources of revenue). Finally, the bill mandates that judges and referees must be certified and approved by state boxing commissions and disclose their sources of compensation for participating in fights.

CBO estimates that H.R. 1832 will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The Commerce Committee reported the bill by voice vote on September 29, 1999. The Education & Workforce Committee discharged the measure on November 4. The Senate passed a similar bill (S. 305) by unanimous consent on July 27, 1999.

H.Res. 94 declares the sense of the House (1) recognizing the generous contribution made by each living person who has donated a kidney to save a life; and (2) acknowledging the advances in medical technology that have enabled living kidney transplantation to become a viable treatment option for an increasing number of patients with end stage renal disease. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Nethercutt and was not considered by a committee.

H.R. 359—Emigrant Wilderness Protection Act requires the Agriculture Secretary to allow a private organization (a volunteer organization or other non-federal entity) to maintain 18 concrete dams and weirs—a specific kind of dam—located in the Emigrant Wilderness in the Stanislaus National Forest in California. Under a management decision made in 1998, the Forest Service will continue to maintain eight of the 18 structures for historical purposes and allow the others to deteriorate without repair. Under H.R. 359, private organizations must pay the expenses to maintain and operate all 18 dams. The bill clarifies that it was the original intent of Congress, when it established the wilderness area (*P.L. 93-632*), to preserve and maintain the dams and weirs. In addition, the bill authorizes \$20,000 to cover the costs of environmental reviews of the area. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 359 will have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Doolittle and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on May 5, 1999.

H.R. 3002—Resources Reports Restoration Act requires certain federal agencies to continue submitting approximately 128 reports pertaining to public lands, Native Americans, fisheries, wildlife, insular areas, and other natural resources-related matters. The 1997 Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act (*P.L. 104-66*) eliminated many congressionally-mandated reports on a variety of topics. It also terminates—on December 21, 1999—certain other annual, semi-annual, and other periodic reporting requirements. Among the reports slated for elimination are the Council on Environmental Quality's annual report, the management plans for national parks, governing international fisheries agreements, threatened areas on the National Register of Historic Places, notices of withdrawals of public lands, and the rehabilitation needs for National Forest System lands. The Resources Committee argues that the bill appropriately continues many reports that are critical to congressional oversight and government accountability. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 3002 will cost approximately \$1 million a year starting in FY 2001, assuming appropriation of necessary funds. The bill was introduced by Mr. Young and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on October 6, 1999.

H.R. 3077—Facilitating Water Transfers in the Central Valley Project authorizes the state of California to use the San Luis Unit facilities of the Central Valley Project to carry non-project water to federal irrigation districts. The San Luis Act (*P.L. 86-488*), which authorized the water project, prohibits California from using federal water project facilities to provide water to users of the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project. H.R. 3077 states that water supplied through the federal facilities will be subject to federal law even if the source of the water is a state project, and that the state water delivered by means other than the federal project remains controlled by the state. These assurances are necessary to keep the bill in accordance with federal reclamation laws. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 3077 will have no significant effect on discretionary spending over the FY 2001-2004 period. The bill increases offsetting receipts from water users, thus reducing direct spending by about \$2 million annually; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. The bill was introduced by Mr. Doolittle and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on October 27, 1999.

H.Con.Res. 128 expresses the sense of Congress that the Clinton Administration should (1) be commended for supporting United Nations Resolution 1999/13 (expressing the concern of the international community over continued discrimination against religious minorities in Iran), and should continue to work through the UN to assure that the Islamic Republic of Iran implements that resolution's recommendations; (2) condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the recent arrest of members of Iran's Jewish minority and urge their immediate release; (3) urge all nations that have relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran to condemn the treatment of religious minorities in that country and call for the release of all prisoners held on the basis of their religious beliefs; and (4) maintain the current United States policy toward the Iran unless and until that country moderates its treatment of religious minorities. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Sherman *et al.* and was reported by the International Relations Committee on July 1, 1999.

H.R. 2904—Reauthorizing Funding for the Office of Government Ethics reauthorizes the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) for FYs 2000-2003. In addition, the measure applies the definition of "special government employee" to individuals who provide regular advice or counsel to the president, vice president, a member of Congress, or a federal judge (special government employees provide no more than 130 days of service to the government per year). This clarification is intended to make such employees more accountable—the committee asserts that current law does not give adequate notice of who is covered by the definition and therefore covered by conflict-of-interest and financial disclosure laws. The measure was introduced by Mr. Scarborough and was reported by the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on September 30, 1999.

H.Res. 344—Expressing the Condolences of the House Over Payne Stewart's Death recognizes and honors Payne Stewart (1) as one of the greatest golfers; (2) for his many contributions to the nation; and (3) for transcending golf and becoming a timeless symbol of athletic talent, spirited competition, and a role model as a Christian gentleman and loving father and husband. The resolution extends the House's condolences to the families of Stewart and the other victims who perished in a plane crash on October 25. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Blunt *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

H.Res. 269—Honoring Shoeless Joe Jackson expresses the sense of the House that Joseph Jefferson 'Shoeless Joe' Jackson should be appropriately honored for his outstanding baseball accomplishments. In 1919, the infamous 'Black Sox' scandal erupted when an employee of a New York gambler allegedly bribed eight White Sox players, including Jackson, to "throw" the first and second games of the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. Recently, Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig agreed to investigate whether Jackson was involved in the scandal and whether he should be eligible for

admission into the Hall of Fame. The resolution was introduced by Mr. DeMint *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

H.R. 3189 designates the soon-to-be-completed post office located on 14071 Peyton Drive in Chino Hills, California, as the “Joseph Ileto Post Office.” Ileto emigrated to the U.S. from the Philippines and became a U.S. postal employee. He worked for the postal service for two years when on August 10, 1999, he was killed by the gunman who shot and wounded five children and employees at the North Valley Jewish Community Center in suburban Los Angeles. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gary Miller and was not considered by a House Committee.

H.R. 2307 designates the post office located on 5 Cedar Street in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, as the “Thomas J. Brown Post Office Building.” Mr. Brown is a past president of the Boston Athletic Association and was actively involved in the Boston Marathon. He was postmaster of Hopkinton, which is the marathon’s starting point. The bill was introduced by Mr. McGovern *et al.* and was reported by voice vote on September 30, 1999.

H.Con.Res. ____—Reauthorizing the Printing of Certain Publications authorizes the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) to reprint sufficient quantities of four publications for use by members of Congress. These publications are the pocket-size and full-size Constitution handbooks, the book *How Our Laws Are Made* by Charles Johnson, and the CRS publication *Our American Government*. The JCP traditionally prints a few thousand copies of these informative publications each year, which are used by members and staff, and distributed to visiting constituents and civic groups. The bill is expected to be introduced by Mr. Thomas and was not considered by a committee.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #33, November 5, 1999.



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